SJS 44 (Rev. 12/07, NJ 5/08)

CIVIL COVER SHEET

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE REVERSE OF THE FORM.)

I. (a) PLAINTIFFS				DEFENDANTS					
Dicese, Rose Mary				Thomas, Dewey T.					
(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff Passaic				County of Residence of First Listed Defendant Columb			Columbus,	ous, Georgia	
(c) Attorney's (Firm Na Stephanie Mitterhoff, E	nme, Address, Telephone N SQ.	umber and Email Add	lress)	i	AND CONDEMI ID INVOLVED.	NATION CASES, U	SE THE LOCATI	ON OF TI	HE
Bramnick, Rodriguez et. al.				Attorneys (If Known)					
827 East Second Stre				Leonard C. Lei	icht Esa				
Scotch Plains, New Jer	sey 07076			Morgan Melhui		1			÷
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& Enforcement of Judgment 151 Medicare Act	Slander 330 Federal Employers'	☐ 368 Asbestos Persona Injury Product		0 R.R. & Truck 0 Airline Regs.	☐ 820 Copy ☐ 830 Pate		☐ 470 Rackete Corrupt	er Influent Organizat	
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	☐ 440 Other Civil Rights			Actions					
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XII. CANSE OF ACE	Cite the U.S. Civil Sta Diversity 28 U.S	tute under which you a	re filing (Do not cite jurisdiction	onal statutes u	nless diversity):	\	uagment	
VI. CAUSE OF ACTI	Brief description of ca Motor Vehicle A	use: Accident							
VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:	CHECK IF THIS UNDER F.R.C.P.	IS A CLASS ACTION 23	1 DI	EMAND \$		CHECK YES only URY DEMAND:		complain No	nt:
VIII. RELATED CAS	E(S) (See instructions):	JUDGE			DOCKE	ET NUMBER			
Explanation:									
DATE / /		SIGNATURE	FATTOR	NEY OF RECORD					
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MORGAN MELHUISH ABRUTYN

651 West Mount Pleasant Avenue, Suite 200

Livingston, New Jersey 07039

Telephone: (973) 994-2500 Facsimile: (973) 994-3375

E-mail: lleicht@morganlawfirm.com Attorneys for Defendant, Zelenka Nursery

Our File No.: PRH 30-565 U EA/LL

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY NEWARK, NEW JERSEY

ROSE MARY OLCESE and JOSEPH URBANO, in their capacity as Administrators of the ESTATE OF SALVATOR URBANO AND JEANETTE URBANO,

Civil Action No.

Plaintiff(s),

-vs-

DEWEY T. THOMAS, RON CAMPBELL, CROMATRIE TRANSPORTATION LINES, ZELENKA NURSERY, CRST MALONE, INC. JOHN DOE 1-10, ABC CORP., JANE ROE 1-10 and DEF CORP., (fictitiously named),

Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF REMOVAL

TO: The Honorable Judges of the United States District Court For the District of New Jersey

Defendant Zelenka Nursery, (hereinafter "Zelenka") a business entity with a principal place of business at 3050 South Muskogee Avenue, Tahlequa, Oklahoma, 74464 by and through his attorneys, Morgan Melhuish Abrutyn, 651

West Mount Pleasant Avenue, Suite 200, Livingston, New Jersey 07039, respectfully request that this matter be removed to United States District Court for the District of New Jersey in Newark, New Jersey, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. Section 1441, because:

- 1. Zelenka is a Defendant in the above-entitled action commenced in the Superior Court of New Jersey, Law Division, Passaic County under Docket Number PAS-4633-09 ("the State Court Action"). A true and correct copy of the Complaint is attached hereto as Exhibit A.
- 2. Upon information and belief, plaintiff has not yet achieved service of process on Zelenka, although as counsel, we have received a courtesy copy of the Complaint.
- 3. Said action is a suit of a civil nature and the amount claimed, exclusive of interest and costs, appears to exceed the sum of \$75,000.00 as it involves multiple fatalities.
- 4. The United States District Court has original jurisdiction over the subject matter of said civil action under 28 U.S.C. Section 1332(a) in that it is an action wherein the amount in controversy exceeds the sum of \$75,000.00, exclusive of interest and costs, there is complete diversity of citizenship between the Plaintiff and the Defendants, and Zelenka is not a citizen of the State of New Jersey:
 - (a) This lawsuit was filed on behalf of two estates. Upon information and belief, each of the decedents were citizens of Passaic County, New Jersey;

- (b) Upon information and belief, at all times relevant to this dispute, Defendant Dewey T. Thomas resided at 5468 Eastbrook Lane, Columbus, Georgia, 31907; and
- (c) Upon information and belief, at all times relevant to this dispute, Defendant Ron Campbell resided at 101 Shoals Point, Eatonton, Georgia, 31024, and
- (d) Defendant Cromartie Transportation Lines is a business entity with a principal place of business located at 568 Lummus Avenue, Austell, Georgia, 30168.
- (e) CRST Malone, Inc. is a business entity with a principal place of business located at 1901 Floyd Bradford Road, Trussville, Alabama, 35173.
- 5. Said action is one of which the District Court of the United States is given original jurisdiction.
- 6. The time for filing the Notice for Removal under 28 U.S.C. Section 1446 has not expired as this notice is being filed within 30 days of the defendant being notified of the lawsuit, and prior to plaintiff actually serving the defendant with process.
 - 7. Defendant has not yet filed an Answer to the State Court Action.
- 8. Upon the filing of this Notice, Defendant will give written notice thereof to Plaintiff's attorney, co-defendants and will file copies of this Notice with the Clerk of the Superior Court of Essex County as provided by law.

WHEREFORE, Defendant pray that this case be removed from the

Superior Court of New Jersey, Law Division, Passaic County, to this Court and proceed in this Court as an action properly removed thereto.

MORGAN MELHUISH ABRUTYN

Attorneys for Defendant Zelenka Nursery, LLC.

Dated:

December 1, 2009

EXHIBIT A

BRAMNICK, RODRIGUEZ, MITTERHOFF, GRABAS & WOODRUFF, LLC 1827 EAST SECOND STREET SCOTCH PLAINS, NJ 07076 Telephone: (908) 322-7000

Facsimile: (908) 322-6997 Attorney for Plaintiffs

ROSE MARY OLCESE and JOSEPH URBANO, in their capacity as Administrators of the ESTATE OF SALVATORE URBANO AND JEANETTE URBANO,

Plaintiffs,

v.

DEWEY T. THOMAS, RON CAMPBELL, CROMARTIE TRANSPORTATION LINES, ZELENKA NURSERY, CRST MALONE, INC., JOHN DOE 1-10, ABC CORP., JANE ROE 1-10 and DEF CORP., (fictitiously named),

Defendants.



SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY LAW DIVISION: PASSAIC COUNTY

DOCKET NO.: L. 2/633-09

Civil Action

COMPLAINT AND JURY DEMAND

Plaintiffs, ROSE MARY OLCESE, residing at 618 Driftwood Court in the City of Allen and State of Texas and JOSEPH URBANO, residing at 14 Matawan Green Lane in the Boro of Matawan, County of Monmouth and State of New Jersey, in their capacity as coadministrators of the ESTATE OF SALVATORE URBANO AND JEANETTE URBANO, by way of complaint state:

FIRST COUNT (Wrongful Death)

1. Plaintiffs are the Administrators of the **ESTATE OF SALVATORE URBANO**AND JEANETTE URBANO, and the Surrogate of Passaic County issued Plaintiffs letters of administration on May 6, 2009. A copy of the letters testamentary appointing Plaintiffs as

general administrators of the decedents' estate is attached as Exhibit "A" and is incorporated into this complaint by this reference.

- 2. That on or about April 25, 2009, Plaintiffs' decedent, **JEANETTE URBANO** was lawfully operating a vehicle, known as a 2004 Gray Buick LeSabre with license plate number YEP18S and registered in the State of New Jersey, on the New Jersey Turnpike South at or about Mile Post 35.
- 3. That on or about April 25, 2009, Plaintiffs' decedent, SALVATORE

 URBANO, was a passenger in the vehicle operated by his wife, Jeanette Urbano, known as a

 2004 Gray Buick LeSabre with license plate number YEP18S and registered in the State of New

 Jersey, on the New Jersey Turnpike South at or about Mile Post 35.
- 4. That on or about April 25, 2009, the Defendant, **DEWEY T. THOMAS**, owned and negligently maintained and operated a motor vehicle known as a 2000 White Freightliner Tractor with license plate number H9402345 and registered in the State of Georgia, on the New Jersey Turnpike South at or about Mile Post 35.
- 5. That on or about April 25, 2009, the Defendant, RON CAMPBELL, owned and negligently maintained and operated a motor vehicle known as a 2000 White Freightliner Tractor with license plate number H9402345 and registered in the State of Georgia, on the New Jersey Turnpike South at or about Mile Post 35.
- 6. That on or about April 25, 2009, the Defendant, **CROMARTIE TRANSPORTATION LINES**, owned and negligently maintained a motor vehicle known as a 2000 White Freightliner Tractor with license plate number H9402345 and registered in the State of Georgia, on the New Jersey Turnpike South at or about Mile Post 35.

- 7. That on or about April 25, 2009, the Defendant, **CRST MALONE**, **INC**., owned and negligently maintained and operated a motor vehicle known as a 2000 White Freightliner Tractor with license plate number H9402345 and registered in the State of Georgia, on the New Jersey Turnpike South at or about Mile Post 35.
- 8. That on or about April 25, 2009, the Defendant, **ZELENKA NURSERY**, owned and negligently maintained a trailer known as a 2005 White Trailer with license plate number 3933FC and registered in the State of Oklahoma, on the New Jersey Turnpike South at or about Mile Post 35.
- 9. That on or about April 25, 2009, the Defendants, **JOHN DOE 1-10 and ABC CORP. 1-10,** fictitious entities, negligently owned maintained and/or improperly operated the aforementioned vehicles on New Jersey Turnpike South at or about Mile Post 35.
- 10. That at the time of the accident, Defendant, DEWEY T. THOMAS, was operating the aforementioned tractor and trailer as the agent, servant or employee of defendants, CROMARTIE TRANSPORTATION LINES, RON CAMPBELL, ZELENKA NURSERY AND CRST MALONE, INC.
- 11. That at the time of the accident, Defendant, **DEWEY T. THOMAS**, was operating the aforementioned vehicles as the agent, servant or employee of defendants, **JANE**ROES 1-10 and DEF CORP. 1-10, fictitious entities.
- 12. That on April 25, 2009, an accident was caused to occur on the New Jersey Turnpike South at or about Mile Post 35, between the aforementioned vehicles owned and operated by Defendants, DEWEY T. THOMAS, RON CAMPBELL, CROMARTIE TRANSPORTATION LINES, ZELENKA NURSERY and CRST MALONE, INC.

- Turnpike South near Mile Post 35, between the aforementioned vehicles owned and operated by Defendants, JOHN DOES 1-10, ABC CORP. 1-10, JANE ROES 1-10 AND DEF CORP. 1-10, fictitious entities.
- 14. That the aforementioned accident occurred wholly and solely as a result of the negligence of the Defendants in their ownership, operation, maintenance and control of the tractor and trailer.
- 15. As a direct and proximate result of said accident, plaintiffs' decedents,

 SALVATORE URBANO AND JEANETTE URBANO, sustained severe and fatal bodily
 injuries that caused their deaths on April 25, 2009.
- 16. Plaintiffs' decedents are survived by their children, ROSE MARY OLCESE AND JOSEPH URBANO, and by reason for the wrongful death of Plaintiffs' decedents, decedents' survivors have suffered pecuniary loss.
- 17. At all relevant times set forth herein, there was in full force and effect in the State of New Jersey, a Wrongful Death Statute, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 2A:31-1, et seq., and Plaintiffs bring this action pursuant to the provisions of the Act for the benefit of decedents' next of kin.
- 18. This action is commenced within two years of the happening of the accident and the death of plaintiffs' decedents.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs, ROSE MARY OLCESE AND JOSEPH URBANO, as

Administrators of the ESTATE OF SALVATORE URBANO AND JEANETTE URBANO,

demand judgment against the Defendants for said sums that would reasonably and properly

compensate them in accordance with the laws of the State of New Jersey together with interest

and court costs.

- 26. Defendants' negligence in their hiring, supervision and training of Defendant, **DEWEY THOMAS**, was a proximate cause of the accident and the resultant fatal injuries to decedents, **SALVATORE URBANO AND JEANETTE URBANO**.
- 27. WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs, ROSE MARY OLCESE AND JOSEPH URBANO, as Administrators of the ESTATE OF SALVATORE URBANO AND JEANETTE URBANO, demand judgment against the Defendants for said sums that would reasonably and properly compensate them in accordance with the laws of the State of New Jersey together with interest and court costs.

FOURTH COUNT (Punitive Damages)

- 28. Plaintiffs repeat, reiterate and reallege every allegation made in the First, Second and Third Counts as if those allegations were set out at length herein.
- TRANSPORTATION LINES, CRST MALONE, INC., RON CAMPBELL, AND ZELENKA NURSERY, in their negligent operation, ownership maintenance and control of the tractor and trailter was accompanied by a wanton and willful disregard of persons who foreseeably might be harmed by that conduct.
- 30. The conduct of the Defendants, CROMARTIE TRANSPORTATION LINES, CRST MALONE, INC., RON CAMPBELL, AND ZELENKA NURSERY, in their negligent hiring, retention and supervision of Dewey Thomas was accompanied by a wanton and willful disregard of persons who foreseeably might be harmed by that conduct.
- 31. As a direct and proximate result of said accident, the Plaintiffs' decedents,

 SALVATORE URBANO AND JEANETTE URBANO, sustained bodily injuries that caused their death on April 25, 2009.

WHEREFORE, based upon the foregoing, the Plaintiffs' decedents, 32. SALVATORE URBANO AND JEANETTE URBANO, demand judgment against the Defendants for punitive damages in accordance with N.J.S.A. 2A:15-5.9 et seq. together with interest and court costs.

Dated:

October 21, 2009

BRAMNICK, RODRIGUEZ, MITTERHOFF, GRABAS & WOODRUFF

Attorney for Plaintiff

BY: JOYM. BRAMNICK

JURY DEMAND

Plaintiff hereby demands as trial by jury as to all issues in this matter as permitted by

law.

Dated:

October 21, 2009

BRAMNICK, RODRIGUEZ, MITTERHOFF, GRABAS &

WOODRUFF Attorney for Plaintiff

BY: JON M. BRAMNICK

DESIGNATION OF TRIAL ATTORNEY

In accordance with R. 4:25-4, JON M. BRAMNICK, ESQ., is named as the Designated Trial Attorney for this matter.

CERTIFICATION

JON M. BRAMNICK, ESQ., attorney for the Plaintiff, certifies:

- 1. The matter in controversy is not the subject of any other action pending in any other action pending in any court and is not the subject of a pending arbitration proceeding.
 - 2. No other action or arbitration proceeding is contemplated.
- 3. There is no other party who should be joined in this action to my knowledge as of the present time.

Dated: October 21, 2009

BRAMNICK, RODRIGUEZ, MITTERHOFF, GRABAS & WOODRUFF Attorney for Plaintiff

BY: JON M. BRAMNICK

Appendix XII-B1



CIVIL CASE INFORMATION STATEMENT

(CIS)

Use for initial Law Division
Civil Part pleadings (not motions) under Rule 4:5-1
Pleading will be rejected for filing, under Rule 1:5-6(c),
if information above the black bar is not completed or
if attorney's signature is not affixed.

FOR USE BY CLERK'S OFFICE ONLY
PAYMENT TYPE: ☐CK ☐CG ☐CA
CHG/CK NO.
AMOUNT:
OVERPAYMENT:
BATCH NUMBER:

if information	OVERPAYMENT:				
if at	torney'	s signatu	re is not affix	ea.	BATCH NUMBER:
ATTORNEY/PRO SE NAME		TELEPHO	ONE NUMBER	COUNTY OF	VENUE
Jon M. Bramnick, Esq.		(908) 3	322-7000	Passaic	
FIRM NAME (If applicable)				DOCKET NU	MBER (When available)
Bramnick, Rodriguez, Mitterhoff, Gr	abas & \	Woodruff, L	.L.C		4633-04
OFFICE ADDRESS				DOCUMENT	
1827 East Second Street				Complain	
Scotch Plains NJ 07076				JURY DEMAI	ND ⊠YES □ NO
NAME OF PARTY (e.g., John Doe, Plaintiff)	70	CAPTION			
Rose Mary Olcese and Joseph Urbano, in their capacity as administrators of the Estate of et als	5	of the Est	ate of Salvatore	urbano and Jean	elr capacity as Administrators ette Urbano v Dewey Thomas, ırsery, CRST et als
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TORNEY SIGNATURE	-				
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Revised Effective 9/2009, CN 10517

SIDE 2



CIVIL CASE INFORMATION STATEMENT (CIS) Use for initial pleadings (not motions) under *Rule* 4:5-1

E TYPES (Choose one and enter number of case type in appropriate space on the reverse side.)	
Track I — 150 days' discovery 151 NAME CHANGE 175 FORFEITURE 302 TENANCY 399 REAL PROPERTY (other than Tenancy, Contract, Condemnation, Complex Commercial or Construction) 502 BOOK ACCOUNT (debt collection matters only) 505 OTHER INSURANCE CLAIM (INCLUDING DECLARATORY JUDGMENT ACTIONS) 506 PIP COVERAGE 510 UM or UIM CLAIM 511 ACTION ON NEGOTIABLE INSTRUMENT 512 LEMON LAW 801 SUMMARY ACTION 802 OPEN PUBLIC RECORDS ACT (SUMMARY ACTION) 999 OTHER (Briefly describe nature of action)	
Track II — 300 days' discovery 305 CONSTRUCTION 509 EMPLOYMENT (other than CEPA or LAD) 599 CONTRACT/COMMERCIAL TRANSACTION 603 AUTO NEGLIGENCE – PERSONAL INJURY 605 PERSONAL INJURY 610 AUTO NEGLIGENCE – PROPERTY DAMAGE 699 TORT – OTHER	
Track III — 450 days' discovery 005 CIVIL RIGHTS 301 CONDEMNATION 602 ASSAULT AND BATTERY 604 MEDICAL MALPRACTICE 606 PRODUCT LIABILITY 607 PROFESSIONAL MALPRACTICE 608 TOXIC TORT 609 DEFAMATION 616 WHISTLEBLOWER / CONSCIENTIOUS EMPLOYEE PROTECTION ACT (CEPA) CASES 617 INVERSE CONDEMNATION 618 LAW AGAINST DISCRIMINATION (LAD) CASES 620 FALSE CLAIMS ACT	
Track IV — Active Case Management by Individual Judge / 450 days' discovery 156 ENVIRONMENTAL/ENVIRONMENTAL COVERAGE LITIGATION 303 MT. LAUREL 508 COMPLEX COMMERCIAL 513 COMPLEX CONSTRUCTION 514 INSURANCE FRAUD 701 ACTIONS IN LIEU OF PREROGATIVE WRITS Centrally Managed Litigation (Track IV) 280 Zelnorm 285 Stryker Trident Hip Implants	
Mass Tort (Track IV) 248 CIBA GEIGY 266 HORMONE REPLACEMENT THERAPY (HRT) 271 ACCUTANE 272 BEXTRA/CELEBREX 274 RISPERDAL/SEROQUEL/ZYPREXA 275 ORTHO EVRA 276 COMETA/AREDIA 277 MAHWAH TOXIC DUMP SITE 278 ZOMETA/AREDIA 279 GADOLINIUM 281 BRISTOL-MYERS SQUIBB ENVIRONMENTAL 282 FOSAMAX 283 DIGITEK NUVARING 284 NUVARING 285 LEVAQUIN 286 LEVAQUIN 287 ASBESTOS 288 ZOMETA/AREDIA 288 VIOXX	
If you believe this case requires a track other than that provided above, please indicate the reason on Side 1, In the space under "Gase Characteristics." Please check off each applicable category: Verbal Threshold Putative Class Action Title 59	•

PASSAIC SUPERIOR COURT
PASSAIC COUNTY COURTHOUSE
77 HAMILTON STREET
PATERSON NJ 07505

TRACK ASSIGNMENT NOTICE

3

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COURT TELEPHONE NO. (973) 247-8183 COURT HOURS

DATE: OCTOBER 30, 2009 RE: OLCESE VS THOMAS DOCKET: PAS L -004633 09

THE ABOVE CASE HAS BEEN ASSIGNED TO: TRACK 2.

DISCOVERY IS 300 DAYS AND RUNS FROM THE FIRST ANSWER OR 90 DAYS FROM SERVICE ON THE FIRST DEFENDANT, WHICHEVER COMES FIRST.

THE PRETRIAL JUDGE ASSIGNED IS: HON ANTHONY J. GRAZIANO

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, CONTACT TEAM 002 AT: (973) 247-8171.

IF YOU BELIEVE THAT THE TRACK IS INAPPROPRIATE YOU MUST FILE A CERTIFICATION OF GOOD CAUSE WITHIN 30 DAYS OF THE FILING OF YOUR PLEADING.
PLAINTIFF MUST SERVE COPIES OF THIS FORM ON ALL OTHER PARTIES IN ACCORDAN JITH R.4:5A-2.

ATTENTION:

ATT: JON M. BRANMICK BRAMNICK RODRIGUEZ M G & W.LLC 1827 EAST SECOND STREET SCOTCH PLAINS NJ 07076

JUKIS